

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13441 251545Z

66

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 AID-10 DODE-00 DPW-01 OMB-01

EUR-10 PRS-01 SSO-00 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 057008

R 251049Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5104

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13441

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR JULY 25, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP
RTAFB JULY 25 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE CAN THO 0600

SUMMARY: JULY 23-24 PASSED WITH LIGHT MILITARY ACTIVITY
SCATTERED AROUND THE DELTA. CHUONG THIEN RECEIVED A NEW
ARVN BATTALION. A RUMORED TOTAL PULL-OUT FROM ICCS
REGION VII SUBREGIONAL TEAM SITES
IS DENIED BY THE POLES
AND HUNGARIANS. THE REGION VII GVN/JMC CHIEF SAID HE WILL
CONTINUE TO SUBMIT INVESTIGATION REQUESTS TO THE ICCS.
THE DEMOCRACY PARTY WON VILLAGE ELECTIONS IN KIEN TUONG
AND BEGINS TO ORGANIZE IN AN GIANG. THE NEW VINH BINH
PROVINCE CHIEF PLANS ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM AND INCREASED
PACIFICATION. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) MR IV CLAIMED 26 VC/NVA
CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JULY 23 AND 25 VIOLATIONS THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13441 251545Z

FOLLOWING DAY. AMONG THESE WERE FOUR GROUND ASSAULTS, 29

ATTACKS BY FIRE, 15 HARASSMENTS, AND THREE TERRORIST ACTS. OVER THE TWO-DAY PERIOD GVN FORCES SUFFERED 26 DEAD, 64 WOUNDED, AND ONE MISSING. THEY ALSO REPORTED 25 CIVILIANS CAPTURED IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE NEAR THE PHONG DINH BORDER. THE VC/NVA ALLEGEDLY LOST 90 DEAD AND FIVE CAPTURED.

(B) WE UNDERSTAND THE SECOND BATTALION, 32ND REGIMENT, 21ST ARVN DIVISION, MOVED JULY 24 FROM CA MAU TO CHUONG THIEN. TWO OF THE 32ND'S THREE BATTALIONS ARE NOW OPERATING IN CHUONG THIEN, AND ONE REMAINS IN IN XUYEN.

2. ICCS/JMC: (A) A RUMOR SURFACED IN CAN THO JULY 24 THAT THE REMAINING THREE ICCS DELEGATIONS WERE PULLING OUT OF ALL THE REGION VII TEAM SITES BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE SECURITY. THEY HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR TEAMS FROM TRI TON THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON FOLLOWING A BRIEF SHELLING OF THE TOWN (CAN THO 0592). AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF UNFAMILIAR POLISH FACES IN CAN THO FORTIFIED THE RUMOR. BUT POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATES ASSURED A VICE CONSUL THAT ONLY THE TRI TON TEAMS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN, THE REST WOULD STAY. POLISH DELEGATION CHIEF COL S. PIKULA SAID ROUTINE ROTATION OF HIS PERSONNEL OCCASIONED THE LARGE NUMBER OF POLES IN TOWN JULY 24. (COMMENT: NEITHER POLES NOR HUNGARIANS

SAID THEIR TEAMS WOULD REMAIN AT THE SUB-REGIONAL SITES INDE-

FINETLY . THEY CONTINUE TO ASSERT THAT A THREE-PARTY NCCS IS "ILLEGAL" UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THAT THEY CANNOT OPERATE UNTIL THE PARIS SIGNATORIES DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE COMMISSION. UNDER THE CIR-

CUMSTANCES, WE THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT THE THREE REMAINING COMMISSION MEMBERS, WHILE AWAITING EVENTS, MAY RESCUE THEIR SUB-REGIONAL TEAMS FROM ENNUI AND CONCENTRATE THEM AMIDST THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF CAN THO).

(B) REGION VII GVN/JMC CHIEF COL NGUYEN TIEN LOC TOLD A VICE CONSUL JULY 23 THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SEND THE ICCS COMPLAINTS OF ALLEGED VC/NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS AFTER THE CANADIANS WITHDRAW. LOC SAID THAT IF THE ICCS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13441 251545Z

REFUSES TO ACT UPON THE COMPLAINTS--ARGUING THAT UNTIL A FOURTH PARTY IS NAMED TO REPLACE CANADA THE ICCS CANNOT FUNCTION--THE FAULT WOULD NOT BE THAT OF THE GVN. WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO DISCHARGE ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE ICCS ACCORDING TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT. LOC ADDED THAT HE WOULD EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO A TRUNCATED THREE-PARTY ICCS, BUT IF SUCH A COMMISSION SHOULD DEMONSTRATE ITSELF TO BE COMMUNIST DOMINATED AND DETERMINED TO EMBARRASS THE GVN,

HE COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PERMIT IT TO OPERATE IN VIET NAM.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES: (A) THE DEMOCRACY PARTY (DP) SWEPT SEVEN VILLAGE ELECTIONS AS EXPECTED IN KIEN TUONG JULY 8. SCHEDULED ELECTIONS IN ANOTHER VILLAGE WERE POSTPONED WHEN AN INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CANDIDATES SURVIVED SECURITY CLEARANCES. ONLY TWO OF THE 59 CANDIDATES IN THE SEVEN REALIZED ELECTIONS WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THE DP (BOTH IN NHON NINH VILLAGE, KIEN LINH DISTRICT). ONE OF THESE INDEPENDENTS WAS ELECTED AND ONE DEFEATED. IN THREE VILLAGES DEMOCRACY PARTY CANDIDATES RAN WITHOUT OPPOSITION. OVERALL, 15 OF 19 INCUMBENTS WERE REELECTED. THE VC MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE POLLING.

(B) THE DEMOCRACY PARTY IS ORGANIZING ITSELF FOR THE UPCOMING SENATE ELECTIONS IN AN GIANG. THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF DP ACTIVITY IN THIS HOA BAO-DOMINATED PROVINCE; SINCE THE SENATE ELECTION INVOLVES NATIONAL POLITICS, LOCAL HOA BAO INTERESTS APPARENTLY DO NOT FEEL THREATENED BY PRESIDENT THIEU'S PARTY. CAPT TRINH THANH TONG, HEAD OF THE PROVINCE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IS ACTING AS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN AN GIANG. TONG, WHO HAS BEEN FORCED TO TAKE LEAVE WITHOUT PAY DURING THE CAMPAIGN, WILL PROBABLY RUN LATER FOR A SEAT IN THE LOWER HOUSE FROM RACH GIA, KIEN GIANG, WHERE TONG'S FAMILY IS INFLUENTIAL.

4. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: THE NEW VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF, L CAO TAN HAP, HAS BEGUN HIS ADMINISTRATION WITH A WHITE TORNADO OF ACTIVITY. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE, HAP WORKS A SEVEN DAY WEEK. OFTEN UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT. SINCE HIS INSTALLATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13441 251545Z

JULY 17, HE HAS TRAVELED ALL OVER THE PROVINCE HE IS

REORGANIZING HIS FOUR PROVINCE MOBILE OPERATIONS TEAMS (PMOT) AND REQUIRING THEM TO REMAIN AT LEAST A WEEK IN EACH VILLAGE VISITED INSTEAD OF TWO OR THREE DAYS AS PREVIOUSLY. HAP REPORTEDLY IS DRAWING UP A MASTER PLAN TO PACIFY THE BA DONG AREA, LONG TOAN DISTRICT, A PIECE OF REAL ESTATE PREVIOUSLY INFORMALLY CONCEDED TO THE VC. THE PLAN SUPPOSEDLY CALLS FOR A NEW ROAD TO BE CUT THROUGH THE DISPUTED AREA. SIGNED LEHMANN UNQUOTE
MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION, PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON13441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730711/aaaaaidf.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MR IV SITREP FOR JULY 25, 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, HU, ID, PL, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005